

## I CLAIM

1. A video processing method for generating output images for display, an output image having one or more regions derived from a first source image separated by a wipe boundary from one or more regions derived from a second source image, each display position of said source images having an associated transparency coefficient, said method comprising the steps of:

- (i) preparing said first source image for display in a display memory;
- (ii) defining a wipe origin locus representing a wipe boundary when substantially all of said output image is derived from said first source image and a wipe destination locus representing a wipe boundary when substantially all of said output image is derived from said second source image, points on said wipe destination locus being associated with points on said wipe origin locus, each such pair of associated points defining a respective wipe progression direction;
- (iii) generating a wipe control signal defining proportions of said first and second source images to be displayed with respect to a normalised display distance along a wipe progression direction from said wipe origin locus and said wipe destination locus;
- (iv) modifying said transparency coefficient of said first source image held in said display memory, said transparency coefficient of each display position being modified in dependence on value of said wipe control signal corresponding to said normalised display distance along said wipe progression direction between that display position and said wipe origin locus and between that display position and said wipe destination locus;
- (v) writing said second source image over said first source image in said display memory so that said first source image is modified by pixels of said second source image in dependence on said transparency coefficient associated with each display position of said first source image.

2. A method according to claim 1, in which said modifying step comprises the step of applying said wipe control signal as a one-dimensional texture function to said first source image held in said display memory.

3. A method according to claim 1, in which said modifying step comprises replacing said transparency coefficient associated with each display position of said first source image in said display memory by a value derived from said wipe control signal.

4. A method according to claim 1, in which a respective transparency coefficient is associated with each pixel of said source images.
5. A method according to claim 1, in which a user wipe control is arranged to alter said proportions of said output image derived from each of said source images.
6. A method according to claim 1, in which said wipe origin locus is a single point and said wipe destination locus defines a circle.
7. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 5, in which said wipe origin locus and said wipe destination locus define parallel straight lines.
8. Computer software having program code for carrying out a method according to claim 1.
9. A providing medium which provides software according to claim 8.
10. A medium according to claim 9, said medium being a transmission medium.
11. A medium according to claim 9, said medium being a storage medium.
12. Video processing apparatus for generating output images for display, an output image having one or more regions derived from a first source image separated by a wipe boundary from one or more regions derived from a second source image, each display position of said source images having an associated transparency coefficient, said apparatus comprising:
  - (i) a display memory;
  - (ii) logic to prepare said first source image for display in said display memory;
  - (iii) logic to define a wipe origin locus representing a wipe boundary when substantially all of said output image is derived from said first source image and a wipe destination locus representing a wipe boundary when substantially all of said output image is derived from said second source image, points on said wipe destination locus being associated with points on said wipe origin locus, each such pair of associated points defining a respective wipe progression direction;

(iv) a generator to generate a wipe control signal defining proportions of said first and second source images to be displayed with respect to a normalised display distance along a wipe progression direction from said wipe origin locus and said wipe destination locus;

5       (v) logic to modify said transparency coefficient of said first source image held in said display memory, said transparency coefficient of each display position being modified in dependence on value of said wipe control signal corresponding to said normalised display distance along said wipe progression direction between that display position and said wipe origin locus and between that display position and said wipe  
10 destination locus; and

      (vi) logic to write said second source image over said first source image in said display memory so that said first source image is modified by pixels of said second source image in dependence on said transparency coefficient associated with each display position of said first source image.

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